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No CIA Watchdogs, Dirksen Says

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R., Ill.) said Wednesday he will oppose any fresh effort to set up a congressional committee to supervise Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operations.

Dirksen, the Senate Republican leader, said in an interview he assumes that new attempts will be made in the next session of Congress to establish a watchdog committee.

"Whenever a joint committee is empowered to delve into and publicly report on the operations of the government's highest intelligence agency, it will no longer remain an intelligence agency," he said.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, the assistant leader, and Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.) have advocated the creation of a Senate-House committee to keep an eye on CIA operations.

They have argued that such a committee patrols the operations and looks into the policy decisions of the Atomic



DIRKSEN MANSFIELD

Energy Commission, which carries on secret projects.

While there have been few if any leaks of security information in this connection, Dirksen took the position that the CIA's underground activities are so delicate that not even a dozen members of Congress

ought to know about them in detail.

When he was president, Dwight D. Eisenhower strongly opposed setting up a watchdog committee on the grounds that there were certain to be such leaks. At Eisenhower's insistence, the Senate killed a watchdog committee resolution by a 59-27 vote in 1956.

Subcommittee members of the Senate and House appropriations committees now get general information about CIA activities in their study of the agency's money requests. But they are far from knowing as much about what the CIA is up to as the Senate-House committee knows about AEC operations. The CIA seems likely to

come in for some close scrutiny from Congress early in the next session.

For one thing, McCarthy has raised the issue of the qualifications of Republican John A. McCone, former AEC head, to replace Allen W. Dulles as CIA director.

There also is the unsolved question of whether the agency is going to be limited to

the collection and reporting of intelligence information, with the evaluation of that information left to others.

President Kennedy has kept closely guarded a report on a team headed by James Killian and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor which monitored the agency's operations. The assumption is that he has discussed with McCone the policies he wants carried out.



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